



Southcentral Michigan Planning Council

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Board Meeting Minutes

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, September 7, 2021
MEETING TIME: 11:30 am
MEETING LOCATION: Virtual Meeting
<https://www.gotomeet.me/Upjohn> (Audio and Video)
1-877-309-2073 (Toll Free) | 1-669-224-3217
Access Code: 422-647-013

1. Call to Order
2. Representative Attendance
 - a. Representatives Present
 - i. Bomba
 - ii. Carahaly
 - iii. Drost
 - iv. Grieve
 - v. Hazelbaker
 - vi. Kale
 - vii. Pangle
 - b. Representatives Absent
 - i. Frisbie
 - ii. Rey
 - c. Others
 - i. Adams
 - ii. Stepek
3. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. Pangle made a motion to approve the agenda.
 - i. Hazelbaker seconded the motion.
 - ii. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.
4. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. Pangle made a motion to approve the minutes.
 - i. Kale seconded the motion.
 - ii. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.
5. Public Comment
 - a. Steve Stepek requested that the SMPC meetings move to Zoom rather than GoToMeeting.
6. Acceptance of the Financial Report
 - a. Report anticipated at October meeting. No report given.
7. Transportation
 - a. Stepek of KATS gave a verbal account of their activities during the month of August. Stepek also outlined the activities anticipated in September.
 - b. Stepek and Adams updated the board on the 2022 Work Plan approval process with MDOT and noted that a couple of modifications were needed. Staff noted that the modifications were minor and clerical.
8. Capacity Building Grant / EDA
 - a. Update on broadband work
 - i. Adams gave a verbal report of the broadband work conducted under the EDA Capacity Building Grant. Adams noted that SMPC support was mostly concentrated on helping each county organize a dedicated group to oversee activities and to connect them to resources.
 - b. Update on Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan

- i. Adams said that he is working with researchers at the Upjohn Institute to determine if certain traits make regional economies more successful than others. If we can identify those traits, the team will compare those to that of our region to create a path to resiliency.
- 9. EPA Regional Brownfield Grant
 - a. Site selection process option
 - i. Adams noted that the grant application wanted a rationale by which the coalition would make project funding decisions. Staff outlined a few potential options and the board discussed.
 - ii. Kale asked about the mentions of Homer in the grant and asked how that would impact the grant; staff answered with an outline of how Homer was included in the application.
 - iii. Bomba appreciated the willingness of the coalition members to join SMPC in applying for the grant and that led her to feel like those partners should received some dedicated funding. Grieve echoed Bomba's comments and added that he thought the petroleum funds needed additional flexibility. Hazelbaker agreed.
 - iv. The Board settled on dedicating some funds to each of the coalition members but wanted SME (the hired environmental consultant) to add their perspective since they are administering the grant. Staff will report on its meeting with SME that is scheduled to take place in two weeks.
- 10. Local Government Assistance and Planning Activities
 - a. Update on regional Housing Toolkit and housing work
 - i. Adams gave an update on the housing work that staff is conducting. Staff also noted where some have used the plan4housing.org website.
 - b. Updates on Land Use Planning Projects
 - i. Adams gave a very brief update on the land use projects staff is working on.
- 11. Staff Report/Other
 - a. Monthly Correspondence
 - b. Staffing/New Roles
 - i. Adams noted that his role at the Upjohn Institute has changed a little but interface with the SMPC Board would still flow through him.
 - c. ARPA Funding
 - i. Adams coordinated a workshop aimed to inform local units of government about ARPA funding. The workshop is scheduled for October 19 and will be hosted by Michigan State University.
- 12. Representative Comments
 - a. Hazelbaker: toured the new jail, scheduled for completion on 9/30/21. Looking for volunteers to act as residents. All the material prices were pre-pandemic so the costs were not too high.
- 13. Adjournment
 - a. Hazelbaker made a motion to adjourn at 12:54.

Next Meeting: October 5, 2021